



WHAT IS THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM?

The Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) was created, in 1983, by Congress to help meet the needs of hungry and homeless people throughout the United States and its territories by allocating federal funds for the provision of food and shelter.

The program is governed by a National Board composed of representatives of the American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; The Jewish Federations of North America; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Salvation Army; and United Way Worldwide. The national board is chaired by a representative of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Since inception, the national program has disbursed over \$4.4 billion to over 14,000 local providers in more than 2,500 counties and cities. Funds from EFSP are distributed to each county in the United States based on its current population size, unemployment rate, and poverty rate.

United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties facilitates a local board of community volunteers who decide how the funds from EFSP are distributed within Benton and Franklin Counties each year.

HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?

	Phase 39	ARPA-R
Benton County	\$79,095	\$244,464
Franklin County	\$38,697	\$119,604

WHAT ORGANIZATIONS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM?

Organizations must provide services in Benton and/or Franklin Counties and meet the following criteria:

- Be a 501(c)(3) non-profit or agency in good standing with the IRS
- Be eligible to receive Federal funds
- Have an accounting system
- Have a valid Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN)
- Have a Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number issued by Dun & Bradstreet
- Practice non-discrimination (agencies with a religious affiliation, will not refuse service to a client based on religion, nor engage in religious proselytizing or religious counseling in any program receiving Federal funds)
- Have the capacity to deliver emergency food programs
- Have a board that meets at least quarterly

WHAT DOES THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM FUND?

Emergency Food and Shelter funds in Benton and Franklin Counties fund food, shelter, rent/mortgage assistance, and utility assistance.

Eligible items in food category:

- All purchased food items (e.g. food purchased by a food bank)
- Any food used in served meals (e.g. food purchased by a soup kitchen)
- Diapers and feminine hygiene products
- Gift cards/certificates to grocery stores

Frequently Asked Questions



United Way of
Benton & Franklin Counties

- Food vouchers
- Boxes and plastic storage bags used to store and deliver food
- Paper products (paper plates, towels, toilet tissue) used to serve meals
- Items and utensils used to prepare food
- Maintenance fees charged by food banks
- Transportation costs for pickup and delivery of food, and for transporting clients to food distribution sites

Eligibility in shelter category:

- Lodging charges from a hotel or motel
- Lodging charges from a nonprofit facility acting as a vendor
- Lodging stays up to a total of 90 days per person/family
- Local taxes added to the bill
- Certain transportation costs
- Supplies essential to shelter individuals in a mass shelter (cots, mattresses, soap, linens, blankets, cleaning supplies. Limited amounts of personal care products and first aid supplies)

Eligibility in rent/mortgage assistance:

- Three months of past due balance of rent or mortgage per household per EFSP phase
- Three months of current balance of rent or mortgage per household per EFSP phase
- One payment of first month's rent per household per EFSP phase

Eligibility in utility assistance:

- Three months of past due utility bills or current utility bills per household per EFSP phase

HOW ARE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER FUNDS PAID?

Emergency Food and Shelter funds are paid on a reimbursement basis. Agencies awarded EFSP funding must keep accurate documentation of invoices and payments and must submit copies of all invoices and payments to United Way/EFSP as part of the final year-end report.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PHASE 39 AND PHASE ARPA-R?

Phase 39 is the annual EFSP award made to Benton and Franklin Counties for Federal Fiscal Year 2022. Phase ARPA-R is part of the American Rescue Plan Act. Applications for both phases are now open and will be awarded and administered simultaneously.

HOW CAN MY ORGANIZATION APPLY FOR EFSP FUNDING?

Agencies complete online applications through United Way's e-CImpact grant review system. Only completed applications, received through this online system, will be considered.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR BOTH PHASES OF EFSP FUNDING?

Agencies interested in applying for both phases of funding will only be required to submit one application found at <https://agency.e-cimpact.com/login.aspx?org=51090U>. However, agencies must specify which phase or phases of funding that they are applying for, as well as in which county or counties.



DO I NEED TO SUBMIT SEPARATE APPLICATIONS FOR SERVICES PROVIDED IN BENTON AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES?

No. There is one application for both counties. However, applicants must specify if they are applying for funding in Benton County, Franklin County, or both. If applying for both counties, agencies must provide budget detail that clearly identifies expenses for each county.

WHAT DOES THE FUNDING DECISION MAKING PROCESS CONSIST OF?

Organizations can submit applications until February 25, 2022 at 11:59pm. After that deadline, members of the local board in Benton and Franklin Counties will review all applications. During this review period, United Way staff may contact agencies if the board requests clarification.

After you submit your application, United Way staff will contact you to schedule a pre-recorded 5-minute conversation for the local board over Zoom; These short conversations will help provide additional context for the local board's funding decisions.

WHEN WILL I BE NOTIFIED OF A FUNDING AWARD?

Agencies will be notified of funding awards no later than close of business on March 11, 2022.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT FOR MORE QUESTIONS?

For questions or for technical assistance with the online application, please contact United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties by emailing grants@uwbfc.org or calling (509) 581 – 3947.